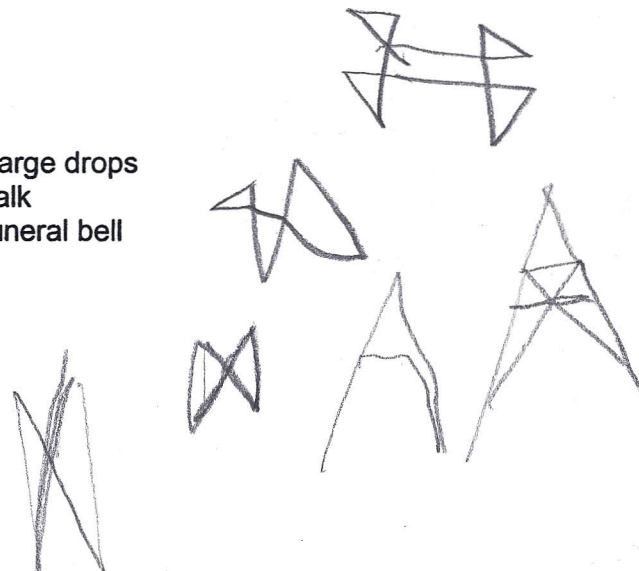


Macbeth, Act 2, Scene 1

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee:
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o'th'other senses,
Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtained sleep. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives;
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives. (A bell rings)
I go, and it is done. The bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

sensible/To feeling – able to be touched
heat-oppressed – feverish
palpable – real, physical
dudgeon – handle

gouts – large drops
prate – talk
knell – funeral bell



Soliloquy as Dialogue

This is a way to kinesthetically explore the debate in a long speech:

1. Read the speech as a group, changing speakers at each punctuation mark.
2. Repeat and discuss any words that are unfamiliar.
3. Divide the group into pairs.
4. The partners touch fingers lightly together of one hand.
5. One person reads the bold lines and moves forward. The speaker lightly moves the other person with their finger tips. The listener moves backwards.
6. The other person reads the underlined lines and moves forward, moving the listener backwards.
7. What are the two sides of the argument?
8. What is Macbeth trying to decide? What does he decide to do?

(over)